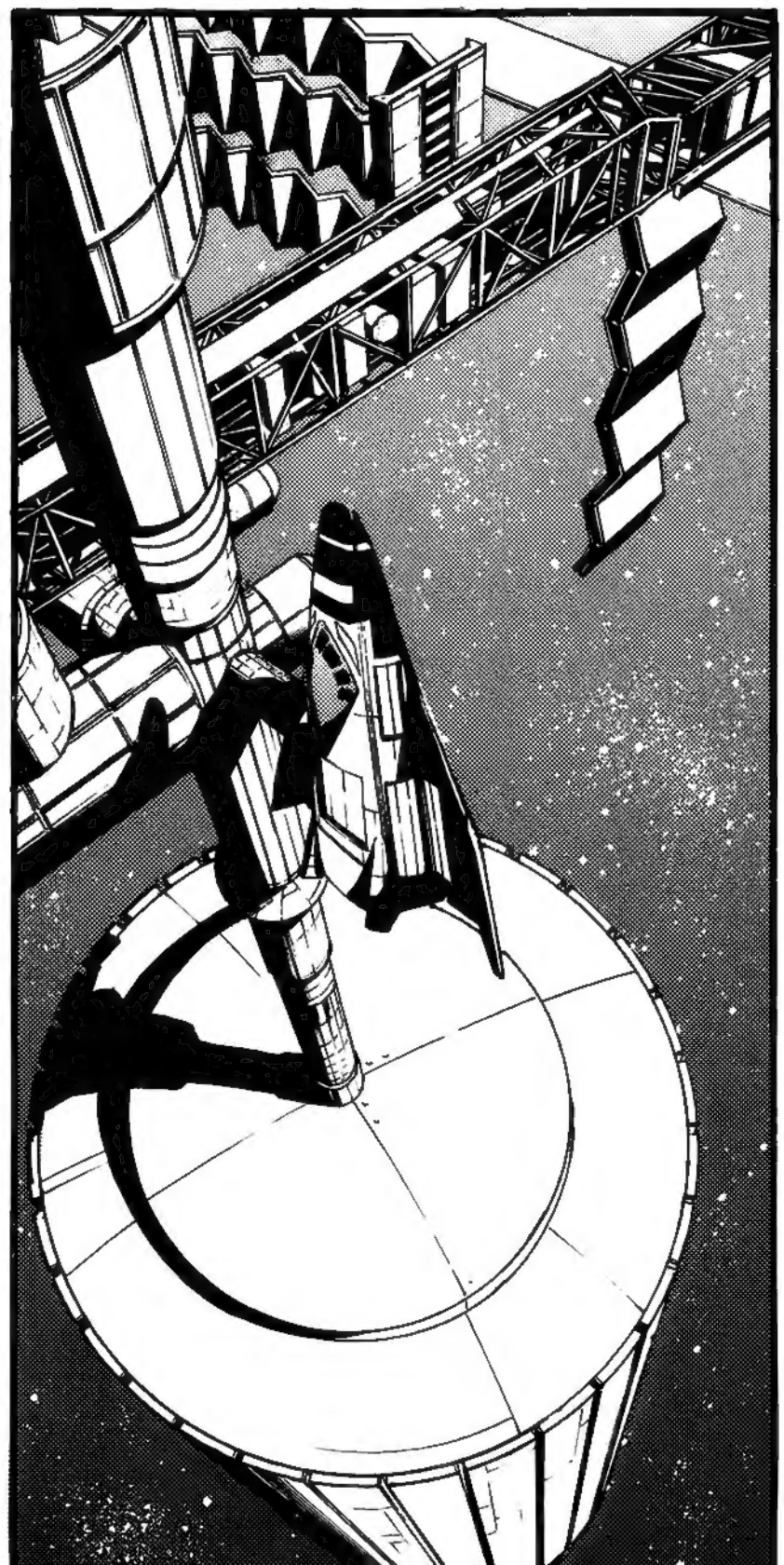
ACT 88 — PRAGUE IN ORBIT



GOOH

FWP

YEAH... OH... THERE'S AIR IN HERE...

THAT'S... A WELL, RIGHT?

AH! WAIT, MASTER!

HE'S THE TYPE WHO LIKES TO FOOL AROUND!

BUT I WONDER WHERE FACE-LESS IS.

I-IT'S SO HARD TO TAKE IT OFF...

HUH?

I KNOW THAT ALREADY...

SOME-THING'S COMING INTO VIEW.

I-IT'S PRETTY DEEP...

.....

WHAT'S THAT?

WHOOSH

IT'S...

FWIP

THUD
!
WHOA... THIS CYLINDRICAL-SHAPED TOWN ROTATES ITSELF TO CREATE GRAVITY... BUT WHY IS THERE A TOWN IN HERE?
THERE'S GRAVITY IN HERE.
TAP.
LET'S CHECK IT OUT, GRIPPON-KUN.
A HUMAN VOICE!
"AHAHAH, REALLY, NOW! YOU STARTLED ME."
W-WHAT IS THIS?!

"YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T WAVE YOUR ARMS AROUND LIKE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET."

WHOSE VOICE IS THIS?

I SAW THIS PLACE IN A PICTURE BOOK BEFORE... IT'S AN OLD EUROPEAN TOWN...

BUT WHY IS SOMETHING LIKE THIS INSIDE THE SPACE STATION?

TAP

"WHAT IS YOUR NAME?"

"FRANCINE."

"MY NAME IS FRANCINE."

"FRANCINE."

"MY NAME IS FRANCINE."

SAY...

DOESN'T FRANCINE JUST HAVE THE LOVELIEST VOICE?

WE MEET ONCE AGAIN, MASARU.

WELL, TOO BAD YOU STOLE ELEONORE FROM ME.

I FELT AN UNBEARABLE PAIN WHEN I ARRIVED HERE IN MY PREVIOUS BODY.

I SWITCHED OVER TO THIS ONE THAT I CULTIVATED USING CELLS FROM MY ORIGINAL HUMAN BODY.

HMM, HAVING A REAL BODY SURE IS GREAT.

HE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE HIM...

FACELESS... IS THAT YOU?

WELL, WHATEVER. I PLAN ON LIVING UNTIL THE END IN THIS REAL BODY THAT I CLONED.

I MEAN, YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO LAUNCH A ROCKET WITH THE DOOR HALF-OPEN.

WHAT A WICKED WAY TO SPEND TIME, FACELESS...

!

...WATCHING AS THE HUMANS ON EARTH ALL ROT AWAY, AND THEN SPENDING THE NEXT 40 OR 50 YEARS IN PEACE.

JUST LIKE THIS, SURROUNDED BY FRANCINES...

I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH YOU ANY LONGER.

AT THE END, YOU JUST CREATED A BUNCH OF WOODEN-DOLL FRANCINES.

YOU TANGLED YOURSELF SO MUCH JUST FOR A SINGLE WOMAN... AFTER WATCHING YOU FOR OVER 200 YEARS, EVEN I HAVE GROWN TIRED.

BE QUIET, ALMENDRA.

THE REASON I DIDN'T KILL AND KEEP A SHIROGANE DROP-OUT LIKE YOU AROUND WAS BECAUSE YOUR FORTUNE TELLING ENTERTAINED ME, AND YOU MADE FOR A GOOD AUDIENCE.

ACCORDING TO MY DIVINATION, HE MUST BE FROM THE CIRCUS...

THIS CHILD BEING HERE MUST MEAN THAT YOUR DOLLS HAVE ALL BEEN ANNIHILATED.

I HAVE ALWAYS TOLD YOU, HAVEN'T I? "DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH A HUMAN CIRCUS."

AS WELL AS A SPEC-TATOR...

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M A FORTUNE TELLER...

MASARU, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE?

THE CIRCUS MEMBERS MUST HAVE RISKED THEIR LIVES BATTLING THE DOLLS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THIS CHILD TO REACH HERE.

THE SAME GOES FOR THIS DOG. IT WAS MADE TO DRINK THE AQUA VITAE THAT HAD DISSOLVED FACELESS' HAIR. IT BECAME A PITIFUL OTHER HALF OF HIM.

DESPITE THIS MAN FIDDLING WITH SCIENCE AS HE WISHES, HE STILL BROUGHT ME TO SPACE JUST SO HE COULD HEAR MY FORTUNE TELLING AND MY SHARP TONGUE TALKING BACK AT HIM.

NOW THAT I COULDN'T GET MY HANDS ON ELEONORE, I'M EVEN BORED WITH MYSELF.

I'M JUST FICKLE AND EASILY BORED.

THIS MAN IS QUITE SUSCEPTIBLE TO LONELINESS, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE? IT'S LAUGHABLE.

THAT'S WHY I RETURNED TO MY REAL BODY. I'M JUST GOING TO LIVE NORMALLY UNTIL I PASS FROM OLD AGE.

BAM

...THAT MEANS...

YOU'RE DONE, RIGHT? SO SAVE THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD...

WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU TRAVELED ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO STAY QUIET?

PLEASE, MR. FACELESS! TELL ME HOW TO CURE ZONAPHA SYNDROME!

AND NOW YOU BEG ON YOUR KNEES FOR ME TO TELL YOU HOW TO CURE ZONAPHA SYNDROME?

YOU TOOK ELEONORE AWAY FROM ME...

NO WAYYY, DUMB-ASSSS!

AT LEAST HAVE THE BALLS TO SAY YOU'LL FIGHT AND FORCE IT OUT OF ME. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH A BIG SOFTIE, MASARU.

I KNOW THAT BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS WATCHING YOU.

AFTER ALL, I WAS YOUR MOTHER'S LOVER.

BEFORE MAKING THE WHOLE WORLD SUFFER, YOUR FIRST VICTIM...

...WAS MY MOM.

RIGHT...

THUD

CRIK

GRIPPON-KUN, STAY BACK. I KNEW IT WOULD COME TO THIS.

MAS-TER!

IT'S GONNA BE A TOUGH BATTLE. HUH, RIGHT, MASARU?

OH, HOW SCARY! YOU WON'T GET YOUR ANSWER IF YOU KILL ME!

AHAHAHA

I WILL FIGHT YOU AND FORCE YOU TO TELL ME HOW TO CURE ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

FACELESS, I'LL PLAY IT YOUR WAY.

DON'T BOTHER. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE GOING TO WIN.

I EVEN LET HIM IN ON PURPOSE WITHOUT USING THE SATELLITE WEAPONS. THIS WILL BE A GOOD WAY TO KILL SOME TIME.

GO!

JACK-O'-LAN-TERN!!

WHOOSH

FWD

AR-
LE-
QUIN!

15

A-
ARLE-
QUIN?

AND
IT'S NOT
MISSING
ANYTHING,
MASTER!!

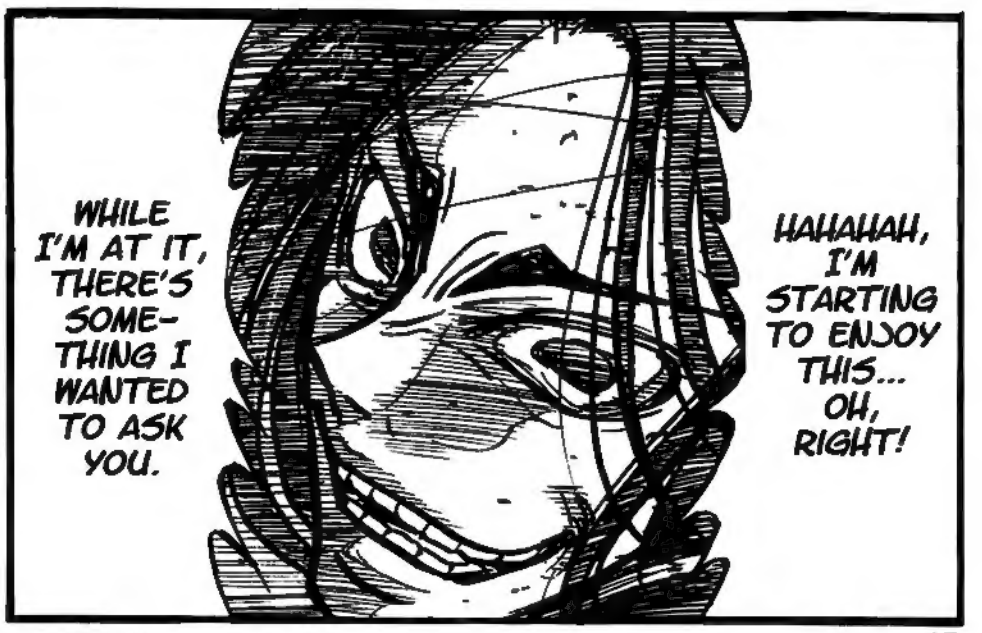
AHAHAHAH,
SURPRISED?
THIS ONE'S
STRONGER
THAN THE ONE
MY BROTHER
YIN MADE!

LES ARTS MARTIAUX! ST. GEORGE'S BLADE!

GRIM REAPER!

CLANG

CLASH


WHILE I'M AT IT, THERE'S SOME-THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
HAHAHAH, I'M STARTING TO ENJOY THIS... OH, RIGHT!

WHY DID YOU LET NARUMI HAVE ELEONORE, MASARU?

480 KILOMETERS ABOVE EARTH'S SURFACE, IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION ALPHA...

THE SHOW FEATURES PUPPETEERS. THE STAKE IS THE CURE FOR ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

...THE CURTAIN RISES TO A SHOW WITH HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE AT STAKE.

WHICH ONE OF THEM SHALL RECEIVE THE STAR'S APPLAUSE?!

WELL, NOW!